

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00
NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 DHA-02 IO-13 PM-04
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O R 031208Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5802
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 1559

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, ZA, RH
SUBJ: PRESS HIGHLIGHTS: SOUTHERN AFRICA

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED
SUMMARY: JUNE 3 ZAMBIAN PRESS IS DOMINATED BY NEWS OF RHODESIAN
INCURSION INTO MOZAMBIQUE. PRESIDENT KAUNDA'S DENUNCIATION OF
THE INCURSION AND HIS STATEMENT THAT ZAMBIA RESERVED THE RIGHT
TO PURSUE RHODESIAN FORCES INTO RHODESIA RECEIVED BANNER
HEADLINES. STORIES ALSO FOCUSED ON HIS GROWING LACK OF FAITH IN
NEGOTIATIONS AND HIS DISILLUSIONMENT WITH FOREIGN SECRETARY
OWEN. END SUMMARY.

1. ARTICLES TREATING SOUTHERN AFRICAN ISSUES IN JUNE 3 PRESS WERE
ALMOST ENTIRELY BASED ON STATEMENTS MADE BY PRESIDENT KAUNDA.
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2. SPEAKING AT A PRESS CONFERENCE AND A LUNCHEON IN BRUSSELS
KAUNDA SAID, "ZAMBIA HAS NO PLANS TO INVADE RHODESIA, BUT,
SHOULD RHODESIA ATTACK, ZAMBIA 'RESERVES THE RIGHT' TO PURSUE
THE ENEMY INTO HIS TERRITORY." ATTACK INTO MOZAMBIQUE SHOWS
THAT SMITH IS NOT YET READY FOR A SETTLEMENT. INSTEAD, HE WAS
TRYING TO DRAG VORSTER AND THE WEST INTO THE WAR ON HIS SIDE.

HE IS DELIBERATELY TEMPTING MOZAMBIQUE AND ITS ALLIES TO RESPOND WITH MASSIVE FORCES AS AN EXCUSE TO GET VORSTER INTO THE "COCKPIT." "RESPONSIBILITY FOR MOZAMBIQUE'S INVASION FINALLY RESTS WITH THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT AS THE ADMINISTERING POWER." KAUNDA IS ALSO QUOTED AS SAYING THAT EUROPE WAS ENTRENCHING AN EXPLOSIVE SITUATION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA BY "ARMING AND OILING THE RACIST FORCES."

3. IN AN INTERVIEW GIVEN TO LONDON FINANCIAL TIMES REPORTER MICHAEL HOLMAN BEFORE KAUNDA'S DEPARTURE FOR EUROPE, WHICH APPEARED IN PRESS JUNE 3, KAUNDA EXPRESSED DOUBTS ABOUT THE CHANCES OF SUCCESS OF THE ANGLO-AMERICAN INITIATIVE AND DISILLUSIONMENT WITH OWEN. "I AM NOT OPTIMISTIC AT ALL" (ABOUT THE ANGLO-AMERICAN INITIATIVE), SAID KAUNDA. THERE MUST BE TANGIBLE EVIDENCE THAT "SMITH MEANS THE SAME THING WE DO BEFORE I CAN BELIEVE THE ANGLO-AMERICAN INITIATIVE CAN PRODUCE RESULTS." HAS FOR OWEN, HE HAD MADE A PROFOUND IMPRESSION ON KAUNDA, BUT SUBSEQUENTLY HIS ACTIONS HAD GIVEN RISE TO DOUBTS ABOUT HIS SINCERITY. NOTHING HAS BEEN HEARD OF THE BRITISH INVESTIGATION OF OIL SANCTION VIOLATIONS ANNOUNCED BEFORE OWEN'S MISSION TO AFRICA. THEN OWEN "CASTIGATED AFRICAN LEADERS' STAND ON SOUTHERN AFRICA, SAYING YOU CANNOT CHANGE THIS OVERNIGHT." THIS BACKING OFF BY OWEN HAD COME WITHIN HOURS AFTER PRESIDENT CARTER MADE FAVORABLE STATEMENT ON SOUTHERN AFRICA. MOST ENCOURAGING DEVELOPMENT SEEN BY KAUNDA WAS PRESIDENT CARTER'S STAND ON HUMAN RIGHTS. HOWEVER, "IT IS POSSIBLE FOR THE (U.S.) ESTABLISHMENT TO PERMIT PRESIDENT CARTER TO DO THE RIGHT THING?"

4. ZAMBIAN MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS RELEASED A STATEMENT JUNE
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2 CONDEMNING THE RHODESIAN INCURSION. ALSO CONDEMNED WERE THOSE "IMPERIALISTS" WHO GIVE INDIRECT AND DIRECT SUPPORT TO RHODESIA IN "ITS AGGRESSIVE AND PROVOCATIVE ACTS."

5. TIMES OF ZAMBIA EDITORIAL ARGUES THAT THE PATRIOTIC FRONT'S ACCUSATION THAT THE BRITISH HAD ACTED IN COLLUSION WITH THE RHODESIANS "COULD NOT BE ALL THAT FAR FETCHED." ARGUMENT IS BASED ON FACT THAT BRITISH SPOKESMAN HAD GONE BEYOND SAYING THAT BRITAIN WAS CONCERNED BY THE RHODESIAN ACTION. SPOKESMAN HAD ADDED THAT RHODESIANS INTENDED TO STAY IN MOZAMBIQUE UNTIL ALL THE GUERRILLAS WERE WIPED OUT. THIS STATEMENT PROVES THE BRITISH HAVE BEEN IN TOUCH WITH THE RHODESIANS. EDITORIAL ASKS WHY DIDN'T THE BRITISH LEAVE IT TO THE RHODESIANS TO TELL THE WORLD ABOUT THEIR PLANS. "ERE THEY JUST CARRYING OUT ANOTHER OF THEIR DUTIES AS POSTMAN FOR SMITH?"

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COMMENT: OVER THE LAST THREE WEEKS KAUNDA AND CONSEQUENTLY THE MEDIA HAVE CARRIED OUT A CAMPAIGN QUESTIONING THE SERIOUSNESS OF BRITISH INTENTIONS IN WORKING TOWARDS A RHODESIAN SETTLEMENT.

IT APPEARS LIKELY THAT THEY SEE THIS AS A MEANS OF FORCING THE
BRITISH TO TAKE A HARDER LINE AGAINST THE SMITH REGIME. PART OF
THE TACTICS OF THIS CAMPAIGN IS TO COMPARE THE BRITISH UNFAVORABLY
WITH THE AMERICANS. THEY PROBABLY SEE THIS AS A WAY TO MOVE THE
U.S. TOWARDS EXERTING MORE PRESSURE ON THE BRITISH. IN PRIVATE
AND ALSO PUBLICLY DURING THE FLAP OVER THE OWEN LETTER WARNING OF
SMITH'S THREAT OF POSSIBLE PREEMPTIVE ATTACK, KAUNDA HAS
EXPRESSED RESERVATIONS ABOUT OWEN'S INTENTIONS. HIS REPORTED
STATEMENTS TO FINANCIAL TIMES CORRESPONDENT, HOWEVER, GO BEYOND
ANYTHING WE HAVE HEARD EITHER IN PUBLIC OR PRIVATE. THESE
PUBLICLY EXPRESSED DOUBTS ABOUT OWEN ALSO SHOULD BE READ AS
A PART OF THE CAMPAIGN TO FORCE THE BRITISH TO TAKE A HARD
LINE IN DEALING WITH THE RHODESIANS.
CLINGERMAN

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